

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-44 (canceled).

45 (new). A gaming method for an apparatus including a plurality of reels, each of the reels having a plurality of positions associated therewith in which indicia may be displayed, and a plurality of pay lines, each pay line including one position from each of the reels, the method comprising:

receiving a wager;

displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a first group of the plurality of reels, the first group defined as fewer than all of the plurality of reels;

receiving a selection of at least one pay line after the indicia in the at least one position associated with the first group of the plurality of reels is displayed;

displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a second group of the plurality of reels, the second group defined as those reels not in the first group; and

determining a payout according to the at least one pay line selected.

46 (new). The method of claim 45, wherein displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a first group of the plurality of reels comprises displaying indicia in at least one position associated with each reel of the first group.

47 (new). The method of claim 45, wherein displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a first group of the plurality of reels comprises displaying indicia in all of the positions associated with each reel of the first group.

48 (new). The method of claim 45, wherein displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a second group of the plurality of reels comprises displaying indicia in all of the positions associated with each reel of the second group.

49 (new). The method of claim 45, wherein receiving a selection of at least one pay line comprises receiving a selection of at least one position associated with at least one reel of the first group.

50 (new). The method of claim 45, wherein receiving a selection of at least one pay line comprises receiving the selection within an amount of time after the indicia in the at least one position associated with the first group of the plurality of reels is displayed.

51 (new). The method of claim 45, wherein receiving a selection of at least one pay line comprises receiving a selection of a plurality of pay lines.

52 (new). The method of claim 45, further comprising receiving a selection of the reels to be included in the first group.

53 (new). The method of claim 45, wherein displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a first group of the plurality of reels comprises displaying indicia on a video display, and displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a second group of the plurality of reels comprises displaying indicia on a video display.

54 (new). The method of claim 45, wherein receiving a wager comprises receiving a wager in the form of at least one of a coin, a bill, a debit card, a credit card, and a casino card.

55 (new). A gaming apparatus comprising:

a wager acceptor device;

an input device;

a display device capable of displaying a plurality of reels, each of the reels having a plurality of positions associated therewith in which indicia may be displayed, and a plurality of pay lines, each pay line including one position from each of the reels; and

a microprocessor coupled to the wager acceptor device, the input device, and the display device, the microprocessor including a central processing unit and memory,

the microprocessor being programmed to receive a wager from the wager acceptor device,

the microprocessor being programmed to cause the display device to display indicia in at least one position associated with a first group of the plurality of reels, the first group defined as fewer than all of the plurality of reels,

the microprocessor being programmed to receive a selection via the input device of at least one pay line after the indicia in the at least one position associated with the first group of the plurality of reels is displayed,

the microprocessor being programmed to cause the display device to display indicia in at least one position associated with a second group of the plurality of reels, the second group defined as those reels not in the first group, and

the microprocessor being programmed to determine a payout according to the at least one pay line selected.

56 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 55, the microprocessor being programmed to cause the display device to display indicia in all of the positions associated with each reel of the first group.

57 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 55, the microprocessor being programmed to cause the display device to display indicia in all of the positions associated with each reel of the second group.

58 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 55, the microprocessor being programmed to receive a selection via the input device of a plurality of pay lines after the indicia in the at least one position associated with the first group is displayed.

59 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 55, wherein the wager acceptor device comprises at least one of a coin acceptor, a bill acceptor, and a debit/credit/casino card reader.

60 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 55, wherein the input device comprises at least one of a button and a touch sensitive screen.

61 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 55, wherein the display device comprises at least one of a plurality of mechanical reels and a video display screen.

62 (new). A gaming method for an apparatus including a plurality of reels, each of the reels having a plurality of positions associated therewith in which indicia may be displayed, and a plurality of pay lines, each pay line including one position from each of the reels, the method comprising:

receiving a wager;

displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a first group of the plurality of reels, the first group defined as fewer than all of the plurality of reels;

receiving a selection of at least one pay line after the indicia in the at least one position associated with the first group of the plurality of reels is displayed;

displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a second group of the plurality of reels after the at least one pay line is selected, reels in the second group defined as those reels of the first group and at least one additional reel such that the total number of reels is fewer than all of the plurality of reels;

receiving a selection of at least one other pay line after the indicia in the at least one position associated with the second group of the plurality of reels is displayed;

displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a third group of the plurality of reels, the third group defined as those reels not in the first group or the second group; and

determining a payout according to the at least one pay line selected and the at least one other pay line selected.

63 (new). The method of claim 62, wherein displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a first group of the plurality of reels comprises displaying indicia in at least one position associated with each reel of the first group.

64 (new). The method of claim 62, wherein displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a first group of the plurality of reels comprises displaying indicia in all of the positions associated with each reel of the first group.

65 (new). The method of claim 62, wherein displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a second group of the plurality of reels comprises displaying indicia in at least one position associated with each reel of the second group.

66 (new). The method of claim 62, wherein displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a second group of the plurality of reels comprises displaying indicia in all of the positions associated with each reel of the second group.

67 (new). The method of claim 62, wherein displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a third group of the plurality of reels comprises displaying indicia in all of the positions associated with each reel of the third group.

68 (new). The method of claim 62, wherein receiving a selection of at least one pay line comprises receiving a selection of at least one position associated with at least one reel of the first group.

69 (new). The method of claim 62, wherein receiving a selection of at least one pay line comprises receiving the selection within an amount of time after the indicia in the at least one position associated with the first group of reels is displayed.

70 (new). The method of claim 62, wherein receiving a selection of at least one pay line comprises receiving a selection of a plurality of pay lines.

71 (new). The method of claim 62, wherein receiving a selection of at least one other pay line comprises receiving a selection of at least one position associated with at least one reel of the second group.

72 (new). The method of claim 62, wherein receiving a selection of at least one other pay line comprises receiving the selection within an amount of time after the indicia in the at least one position associated with the second group of reels is displayed.

73 (new). The method of claim 62, wherein receiving a selection of at least one other pay line comprises receiving a selection of a plurality of pay lines.

74 (new). The method of claim 62, further comprising:
receiving a selection of the reels to be included in the first group; and
receiving a selection of the reels to be included in the second group.

75 (new). The method of claim 62, wherein displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a first group of the plurality of reels comprises displaying indicia on a video display, wherein displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a second group of the plurality of reels comprises displaying indicia on the video display, and wherein displaying indicia in at least one position associated with a third group of reels comprises displaying indicia on the video display.

76 (new). The method of claim 62, wherein receiving a wager comprises receiving the wager in the form of at least one of a coin, a bill, a debit card, a credit card, and a casino card.

77 (new). The method of claim 62, comprising receiving another wager before receiving a selection of at least one other pay line.

78 (new). The method of claim 77, wherein receiving another wager comprises receiving the another wager in the form of at least one of a coin, a bill, a debit card, a credit card, and a casino card.

79 (new). A gaming apparatus comprising:

a wager acceptor device;

an input device;

a display device capable of displaying a plurality of reels, each of the reels having a plurality of positions associated therewith in which indicia may be displayed, and a plurality of pay lines, each pay line including one position from each of the reels; and

a microprocessor coupled to the wager acceptor device, the input device, and the display device, the microprocessor including a central processing unit and memory,

the microprocessor being programmed to receive a wager from the wager acceptor device,

the microprocessor being programmed to cause the display device to display indicia in at least one position associated with a first group of the plurality of reels, the first group defined as fewer than all of the plurality of reels,

the microprocessor being programmed to receive a selection via the input device of at least one pay line after the indicia in the at least one position associated with the first group of the plurality of reels is displayed,

the microprocessor being programmed to cause the display device to display indicia in at least one position associated with a second group of reels after the at least one pay line is selected, the reels in the second group defined as those reels of the first group and at least one additional reel such that the total number of reels is fewer than all of the plurality of reels,

the microprocessor being programmed to receive a selection via the input device of at least one other pay line after the indicia in the at least one position associated with the second group of the plurality of reels is displayed,

the microprocessor being programmed to cause the display device to display indicia in at least one position associated with a third group of the plurality of reels, the third group defined as those reels not in the first group or the second group, and

the microprocessor being programmed to determine a payout according to the at least one pay line selected and the at least one other pay line selected.

80 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 79, the microprocessor being programmed to cause the display device to display indicia in all of the positions associated with each reel of the first group.

81 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 79, the microprocessor being programmed to cause the display device to display indicia in all of the positions associated with each reel of the second group.

82 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 79, the microprocessor being programmed to cause the display device to display indicia in all of the positions associated with each reel of the third group.

83 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 79, the microprocessor being programmed to receive a selection of a plurality of pay lines after the indicia in the at least one position associated with the first group of the plurality of reels is displayed.

84 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 79, the microprocessor being programmed to receive a selection of another plurality of pay lines after the indicia in the at least one position associated with the second group of the plurality of reels is displayed.

85 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 79, the microprocessor being programmed to receive a second wager from the wager acceptor device before at least one other pay line is selected.

86 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 79, wherein the wager acceptor device comprises at least one of a coin acceptor, a bill acceptor, and a debit/credit/casino card reader.

87 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 79, wherein the input device comprises at least one of a button and a touch sensitive screen.

88 (new). The gaming apparatus of claim 79, wherein the display device comprises at least one of a plurality of mechanical reels and a video display screen.